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19 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration


SUBJECT : AIAA Briefing on 11 March 1976

1. You have asked that I record my memory of precautionary words spoken to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) on 11 March 1976, concerning the ground rules of the evening.

2. I do not have a clear recollection of the principal evening's spokesman, Mr. Carl E. Duckett, having said specifically and unambiguously that all words of Agency representatives spoken during the course of the evening would be "off the record" and not for publication. I do remember Mr. Duckett making reference to the injunction issued by AIAA on their invitation, i.e., no notes and no cameras. I am further of the opinion that Mr. Duckett did mention the evening's performance should be considered "off the record".

3. The lack of more complete certitude as to what was said was due to the following. Mr. Duckett was at the rostrum for approximately seven minutes, before adjourning to his seat at the panel table. As the officer responsible for the administrative arrangements and logistics for the evening, I was primarily focusing, during Mr. Duckett's words, on the arrangements in the Auditorium, the location of the Security personnel, the location of the Office of Training personnel, and observing to see if the late arrivals at the door were challenged for identification by the Security personnel present. In fact, I was quite surprised when Mr. Duckett terminated his remarks as early as he did.

4. You, additionally, asked my memory of any words spoken by Mr. Arthur Kraenish or the contents of any conversations with him by Agency personnel. At no time did I participate in, or listen to, the conversation conducted with Mr. Kraenish by any Agency officer. Immediately after the program was terminated, I was approached by a representative of the Air Force Association who discussed with me the possibility of the Agency presenting the same type of evening briefing to them in the fall of this year. It was only after my conversation with this individual was completed, was I made aware that a controversial conversation had taken place with Mr. Kraenish.


John F. Blake STATINTL

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